

Remarks

The claims have been amended under 35 U.S.C. §112 paragraph 2 to put them in proper form. The claims had originally been drafted in European format, and the above amendments put the claims in better U.S. format. The Examiner also noted that the claims required amendment to conform to the various restriction requirements. Those amendments have been made. Since there is no simple way to show addition of a formula drawing, the structural drawings have been added without indicating that the addition comprises an amendment to the claim. The withdrawn claims are included in their entirety for the convenience of the Examiner in comparing the figures. No diminution of the claims, other than as necessary to comply with the restriction requirements, is intended and no such diminution should be inferred.

In the Office Action of August 4, 2003, the Examiner rejected the pending claims under various references, claiming that applicants were not able to rely on the section 119 priority date because a certified translation of the priority document had not been filed. Enclosed is a certified translation of the German priority document, DE 199 21 877.0. This certified translation allows applicants to claim the priority date of May 12, 1999.

The priority date of May 12, 1999 establishes that the articles cited by the Examiner, von-Samson-Himmelstjerna et al., and Nicolay et al., do not qualify as prior

art under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) or (b), and the rejections based on these documents should be withdrawn.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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